

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FAITH AND HOPE SOCIETY--DR. JOSEPH TRAUB

REF: ISLAMABAD 6803

SUMMARY: DR. JOSEPH TRAUB, ON LOAN FROM DHEW, HAS DECIDED RESIGN AS ADVISOR TO FAITH AND HOPE SOCIETY PROJECT. MRS. SADAT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD DISAPPOINTED. TRAUB'S MAIN REASON FOR LEAVING IS INEFFECTIVENESS AND BACKBITING IN FAITH AND HOPE BOARD AND RESULTANT GROWING DIVERGENCE BETWEEN CONCEPT AND EXECUTION OF PROJECT. TRAUB HAS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR IN MIND, BUT IN OUR VIEW BOARD SHOULD WEIGH CAREFULLY WHETHER IT REALLY WANTS AN AMERICAN ADVISOR AT THIS TIME. UNLESS CONCEPT AND EXECUTION CAN AGAIN BE BROUGHT INTO LINE, ANY AMERICAN WILL SOONER OR LATER HAVE SAME REACTIONS AS TRAUB. WE EXPECT MRS. SADAT MAY RAISE SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY

1. AS INTERESTED DEPT/AID OFFICERS AWARE, DR. JOSEPH TRAUB, WHO IS ON LOAN FROM USDHEW TO GIVE EXPERT ADVICE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND THERAPEUTIC ASPECTS OF MRS. SADAT'S FAVORITE CHARITY, THE FAITH AND HOPE SOCIETY, HAS FOR SOME TIME QUESTIONED THE UTILITY OF HIS BEING HERE. ORGANIZATIONALLY, DESPITE MRS. SADAT'S LEADERSHIP OF THE BOARD, THE FAITH AND HOPE BOARD IS BADLY DIVIDED AND NOT OVERLY EFFECTIVE.

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MINRECONSTRUCTION OSMAN, WHO IS TREASURER, FREQUENTLY

IGNORE THE WISHES OF THE BOARD SIMPLY BY REFUSING TO FUND APPROVED BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS. MANY, INCLUDING DR. TRAUB, BELIEVE THE MINISTER OF HEALTH SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD, BUT MINSOCIAL AFFAIRS, AISHA RATEB, STOUTLY OPPOSES THIS. NOR IS THE OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE FAITH AND HOPE PROJECT RE-ASSURING, SINCE ITS SUBSTANTIVE HEAD AND ITS ADMINISTRATIVE HEAD SEEM TO DO UTMOST TO NEUTRALIZE ONE ANOTHER'S EFFORTS. TRAUB HAS MADE VALIANT EFFORTS TO PUT SOME ORDER INTO FAITH AND HOPE PROGRAM AND HAS HAD MRS. SADAT'S SUPPORT. HOWEVER, MRS. SADAT MUST ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POLITICAL REALITIES OF THE EGYPTIAN SCENE AND DOES NOT, THEREFORE, ALWAYS PUSH THE RECOMMENDATIONS SHE HAS APPROVED AS STRONGLY AS ONE MIGHT DESIRE. DR. TRAUB IS UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED THAT HIS PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION COULD BE HURT BY CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH THE PROJECT.

2. DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF DHEW DIRECTOR DR. JAMES GARRETT, THE LATTER REVIEWED PROGRESS FAITH AND HOPE PROJECT AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED HIS FINDINGS WITH AMBASSADOR. THEY ARE SET FORTH IN REFTEL. GARRETT, LIKE TRAUB, CONCLUDED THAT IT WILL HELP NEITHER TRAUB'S NOR DHEW'S REPUTATION TO CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED. THEY REMAIN WILLING, OF COURSE, TO PROVIDE EXPERT CONSULTING ADVICE. TRAUB'S SIX MONTH EXPERIMENTAL PERIOD HERE ENDS ON AUGUST 9 AND, WITH THE APPROVAL OF HIS SUPERIORS, HE HAS DECIDED NOT TO STAY ON.

3. TRAUB MENTIONED HIS INTENTION TO ONE OF THE OPERATIONAL CHIEFS OF THE PROJECT, WHO APPARENTLY INFORMED MRS. SADAT. SHE AND TRAUB WERE DUE TO MEET JULY 7, AT WHICH TIME TRAUB PLANNED TO TELL HER OF HIS DECISION TO LEAVE. A FEW EVENINGS AGO, HOWEVER, MRS. ISMAIL FAHMY, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE BOARD, TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR TO SAY MRS. SADAT IS VERY UPSET ABOUT TRAUB'S DECISION TO LEAVE AND NEITHER SHE NOR THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS UNDERSTAND WHY HE WISHES TO DO SO. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT BASIC PROBLEM, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, IS THAT THE CONCEPT AND EXECUTION OF THE FAITH AND HOPE PROJECT ARE, UNFORTUNATELY, GREATLY

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DIVERGENT. WHEREAS THE CONCEPT HAS GENERALLY BEEN ADMITTED TO BE EXCELLENT, ITS EXECUTION HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY LESS EFFECTIVE DUE TO THE DIVIDED EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY THAT EXISTS AND THE LACK OF ANY PROJECT MANAGER WITH EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DR. TRAUB HAD REGRETFULLY CONCLUDED THAT HE SHOULD NOT REMAIN ASSOCIATED WITH IT. HE DID HAVE A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR IN MIND, BUT AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED

THAT BEFORE THE BOARD CONSIDERS THE POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR,
IT SHOULD WEIGH CAREFULLY WHETHER IT REALLY WANTS AN
AMERICAN IN THE ADVISOR ROLE AT THIS TIME. UNLESS
CONCEPT AND EXECUTION CAN SOMEWHERE BE BROUGHT INTO
LINE ONCE AGAIN, ANY AMERICAN COMING OUT HERE TO
BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT WILL SOONER OR LATER HAVE
THE SAME REACTIONS TRAUB HAS HAD. AMBASSADOR UNDERTOOK
TO DISCUSS SUBJECT IN GREATER DETAIL WITH MRS. FAHMY
AND WE SUSPECT MRS. SADAT WILL ALSO RAISE MATTER
WITH US. IN SUCH TALKS, AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO USE
MATERIAL CITED REFTEL.
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